

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 DEAE-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SNM-02
SY-05 AID-05 IGA-02 /082 W
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FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1076
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS MAZATLAN 0067

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, MX, EGEN, PINT, CONGEN, SNAR, DEA
SUBJ: U.S. BLAMED FOR SINALOA'S CRIME PROBLEMS

1. EL DEBATE OF LOS MOCHIS, JANUARY 30, REPORTED SEGMENTS OF GOVERNOR CALDERON'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW HOLIDAY INN IN THAT CITY. GOVERNOR CALDERON BLAMED THE "CARTER PEOPLE" FOR THE PRINCIPAL SOCIAL EVILS THAT PLAGUE SINALOA. HE SAID THAT THEY WERE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSAULTS, KIDNAPPINGS, CRIMES AND DRUG TRAFFICKING. HE ALLUDED TO THE DRUG TRAFFICKING AS THE ORIGIN OF A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF THE CRIMES AND SAID THE NORTH AMERICANS WERE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE BECAUSE THEY FINANCED THE "PLANTING OF THE DRUGS". THE GOVERNOR ADDED THAT MANY NORTH AMERICANS INVOLVED IN "BLOODY DEEDS" ARE OF DUBIOUS CHARACTER.

2. REGARDING THE TOURIST BOYCOTT, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT TOURISTS HAD NO REASON TO FEAR VISITING SINALOA AND CITED THAT THE ARMY AND TOURIST PATROLS WERE CONSTANTLY PATROLLING SINALOA ROADS. HE CITED AS THE MOST DANGEROUS ROADS IN SINALOA ROUTE 15 FROM CULIACAN TO MAZATLAN AND ROUTE 40 FROM MAZATLAN TO DURANGO. HE ADDED THAT ON BOTH HIGHWAYS THE UNCLASSIFIED

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VIGILANCE HAD BEEN REDOUBLED AND THE NUMBER OF CRIMES HAD DIMINISHED AND WAS AT ITS LOWEST FIGURE. HE OBSERVED THAT THE MAZATLAN HOTELS REPORTED A FIFTY PER CENT DECREASE OVER LAST YEAR BUT ADDED THAT BUSINESS WAS AGAIN ON THE RISE, PROOF THAT FOREIGN CONFIDENCE IN MEXICO HAD BEEN RESTORED.

3. IN A COLUMNIST'S COMMENT IN THE SAME PAPER, THE GOVERNOR

WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE "GUERITOS" (AMERICANS) WITH THEIR UNFRIENDLY PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS WERE PROVOKING A SITUATION IN WHICH THE MEXICANS NO LONGER KNEW THE COLOR OF A DOLLAR. THE COLUMNIST ADDED THAT THE ONLY OMISSION IN THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH WAS THAT HE DIDN'T BLAME FORD FOR THE CAMPESINO LAND INVASIONS.

4. COMMENT: THE GOVERNOR IS STRIKING OUT BLINDLY, BLAMING EVERYONE BUT THE HOME TEAM FOR SINALOA'S INGROWN PROBLEMS. ON THE SUBJECT OF ADDITIONAL GREEN ANGEL COVERAGE, THE GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD PLACED TEN NEW VEHICLES ON THE ROAD. HOWEVER, THE DAY BEFORE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, THE FEDERAL TOURISM DELEGATE IN CULIACAN, IN REVIEWING COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE NOW REDUCED COVERAGE ON ROUTE 15, SAID THE INAUGURAL BORROWED UNITS HAD BEEN RETURNED TO THEIR HOME STATIONS; THAT 65 NEW VEHICLES HAD BEEN ORDERED FOR MEXICO BUT THAT IT WOULD BE SOMETIME BEFORE DELIVERY WAS MADE.
NOTE: ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS, ARMY AND GREEN ANGEL COVERAGE ON ROUTE 15 IS SPOTTY; ROUTE 40 COVERAGE IS NON-EXISTENT.

MATTHEWS

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